

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1527

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0323

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RO, US

SUBJECT: ROMANIANS PUBLISH SOVIET COMMENTARY ON TRADE BILL
REJECTION

REF: BUCHAREST 5861

1. ROMANIAN NEWS WEEKLY LUMEA (JANUARY 23 EDITION) HAS BROKEN
HERETOFORE MEDIA SILENCE ON SOVIET DECLARATION THAT IT WILL
NOT IMPLEMENT 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT, BASED ON CONDITIONS
CONTAINED IN PRESENT U.S. TRADE BILL. IN DOING SO, LUMEA
HAS USED THE SAME FORMAT AS ITS REPORT OF THE GROMYKO STATE-
MENT DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF AN "UNDERSTANDING" REGARDING
SOVIET EMIGRATION (SEE REFTEL), I.E., QUOTING SOVIET TASS
NEWS AGENCY REPORTS DIRECTLY, WITHOUT FURTHER ROMANIAN
COMMENTARY OR BACKGROUND.

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2. NEWS ITEM IS ENTITLED "TASS NEWS AGENCY CONCERNING A DECLARATION OF HENRY KISSINGER". IT QUOTES THE SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT (TASS VERSION) OF THE SOVIET DECLARATION THAT PRESENT U.S. TRADE BILL CONTRAVENES THE 1972 ACCORD WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE UNCONDITIONAL LIQUIDATION OF DISCRIMINATING COMMERCIAL RESTRICTIONS, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SOVIET REFUSAL TO AGREE TO AN ACCORD CONTAINING "POLITICAL CONDITIONS" IS REPORTED, AS WELL AS KISSINGER'S CONCLUSION THAT 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT CANNOT NOW ENTER INTO FORCE. ALSO INCLUDED HOWEVER IS SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO CONSIDER "MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS" COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND WILL USE ALL MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO OBTAIN ADOPTION OF A LAW WHICH WILL PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF NORMAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

3. LUMEA THEN CITES TASS AND "IZVESTIA" COMMENTARY THAT NEVERTHELESS USSR CONTINUES TO FAVOR DETENTE AND EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, PARTICULARLY WITH THE US; IZESTIA ARTICLE (OF JANUARY 18) ALSO NOTES THAT WHILE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION HAS PUT END TO ANY SOVIET OBLIGATIONS CONCERNING MFN, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS IN GENERAL ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO DEVELOP DUE TO THE "SPIRIT REIGNING IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY" - SOMETHING WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THE INTEREST OF BOTH PARTIES.

4. COMMENT: ROMANIA, IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING ITS OWN COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S., HAS CHOSEN TO EMPHASIZE THOSE SOVIET STATEMENTS WHICH IMPLY NO GENERAL CHANGE IN THE SOVIETPURSUIT OF DETENTE AND EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE WEST; POLICIES WHICH THE ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP HAS CHAMPIONED FOR MANY YEARS AND WHICH ARE CRUCIAL TO THEIR OWN BRAND OF NATIONAL COMMUNISM.
BARNES

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